

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASMARA 00516 021550Z

51

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-10 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /068 W
----- 016846

R 021346Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3387

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0516

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ET

SUBJECT: ASMARA - DEVELOPMENTS AND RUMORS

1. THE ASMARA RUMOR MILL REPORTS THAT AN ELEMENT (500-2500) OF EPMG FORCES ARE BEING HELD AS POW'S BY PLF FORCES IN ERITREA, AS A RESULT OF THE 17-20 MAY OPERATION. THE DETAINED TROOPS ARE THOUGHT TO BE IN AN AREA NORTHEAST OF ASMARA. THE PLF ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE ASKED FOR RED CROSS ASSISTANCE IN FEEDING THE POW'S, SINCE PLF HAVE INSUFFICIENT SUPPLIES FOR THE TROOPS. AN ARMY CONVOY OF 37 TRUCKS WAS SENT TO RESCUE THE TROOPS ON 30 MAY BUT WAS REPORTEDLY TURNED BACK BY THE INSURGENTS. COMMENT: IT IS CONCEIVABLE THE PLF COULD HAVE TAKEN SOME POW'S, BUT ONE TO TWO PLATOONS WOULD BE A MORE CONCEIVABLE NUMBER.

2. DURING THE WEEK OF 26 MAY, FIVE GOV'T SPIES/CID AGENTS WERE REPORTEDLY KILLED IN ASMARA BY THE INSURGENTS.

3. ON MORNING OF 31 MAY A PLF MEMBER WAS HANGED IN ASMARA CATTLE MARKET BY SECURITY FORCES. HIS BODY WAS LEFT HANGING FOR SEVERAL HOURS FOR PUBLIC DISPLAY.

4. AT APPROX 6:20 P.M. ON 31 MAY A MOLOTOV COCKTAIL EXPLODED IN THE FLORIDA BAR IN ASMARA. REPORTEDLY AN ARMY MAJOR AND LT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ASMARA 00516 021550Z

WERE KILLED, ALONG WITH A NAVY PETTY OFFICER. FOUR BAR GIRLS WERE

WOULDED, ONE SERIOUSLY. ONE SOURCE BELIEVES A COL. ZENEBE, 1ST
DIV., WHO WAS A FRIEND OF THE BAR OWNER, WAS THE INTENDED TARGET.
ANOTHER SOURCE BELIEVES THE BOMBING WAS RETALIATION FOR THE HANGING.
(PARA 3)

5. SEVERAL SOURCES AMONG THE EDUCATED CHRISTIAN ELITE
IN ASMARA INDICATE A BELIEF THAT THE ERITREAN QUESTION WILL BE
RESOLVED IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.
PERRY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLEGATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, LIBERATION FRONTS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ASMARA00516
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750192-0307
From: ASMARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750584/aaaacyoq.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <11 DEC 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASMARA - DEVELOPMENTS AND RUMORS
TAGS: PINS, ET, PLF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006